Reconstruction of army posts and bunkers destroyed in earthquake

†779. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the plan made for reconstruction of army posts and bunkers destroyed due to the earthquake which occurred in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) by when the work of reconstruction of the same will be completed; and

(c) whether there is any plan to do it on priority basis in view of the coming winter season?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Army has suffered damages in Uri, Poonch and Tangdhar Sectors to its installations including field defences, bunkers and army posts in the aftermath of the recent earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir.

Post earthquake, the Army has fully restored its defensive as well as counter infiltration posture. Adequate measures are in place and there are no gaps or vulnerabilities that can be exploited by the terrorists/enemy. Improvement of defences is a continuous process and is undertaken based on a regular review.

Steps to keep bird menace at bay at HAL Airport

780. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to bird hit, MIG-21 crashed at HAL airport, Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to keep the bird menace at bay at HAL Airport;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the above incident; and

(d) if so, what are the results of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The control of the bird menace at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Airport is a dynamic and continuous process. Several measures have been evolved and implemented over the years and the same is continuously reviewed to mitigate the bird menace. In this direction, Bird Hazard Combat

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Team has been formed to scare away birds. Besides, the Aerodrome authorities continuously interact with local municipal authorities to keep the surrounding areas free from garbage, drains and for chemical treatment of the drains.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Court of Inquiry is in progress.

Smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh

781. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh which is valued approximately at Rs. 1000 cr. per annum has turned out to be a major menace for the BSF personnel manning the posts as the 1500 km. Indo-Bangladesh border is either not fenced, or is riverine where policing is very difficult;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian cattle feeds is a Rs. 2000 cr. Industry in Bangladesh covering leather, meat supply and meat export etc; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to check this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh. The BSF deployed on the Indo-Bangladesh border has been seizing a large number of cattle while these are being smuggled to Bangladesh. The smuggled Indian cattle are a source of revenue for Bangladesh as it feeds its leather/meat industry to an extent. The following steps have been taken to check illegal trade of cattle:

(a) Special drives are undertaken on the border to check the illegal smuggling of cattle;

(b) Unfenced gaps in the border fence are being plugged with improvised fencing.

(c) Special raids are carried out in depth areas in coordination with local police and customs;

(d) Round the clock surveillance of the border by patrolling, both day and night, operations and nakas/ambushes;

(e) Erection of fence and border roads;